



## HOW GREAT THOU ART

Art should come first; it is the most important element in an environment, at least according to Allyn Gallup, owner of Mira Mar Gallery. Yet it rarely happens that way. "Someone will pay seven figures for a residence and sign up for six-figure interior design, then at the very end when the

designer has already gone way over budget, they'll get to the art. And they'll wind up with an interior that will not look anywhere near what it could have looked like had the right premium been put on art," he says.

Of course, not everyone has a million-dollar home, let alone a design budget; but on a smaller scale, the same missed opportunity exists. "With a little courage and imagination, and, relatively speaking, not a lot more money, almost anyone could have real art," suggests Gallup. Real art, not framed prints, stuff from catalogs or home stores. "One of the tragedies is that people—even those with enormous wealth—don't realize how much better their environment could be if they put original art in it. For some reason, people have no problem pulling the trigger on a luxury car or an expensive sofa, but buying a work of art is a big deal; they have a huge emotional problem with that. I believe it's due to an inherent lack of confidence because people don't know what is 'good.'"

He's got a point. How many of us really know that much about art? It does appear that knowledge and personal taste are closely related, however, and can be developed. Like anything—wine, for example—the more you are exposed to really good stuff, the more sophisticated your tastes become. Start by looking at a lot of art (in all its glorious forms) and decide what you're drawn to—or work

# artful interiors

ART INTRODUCES A SYMPHONY OF  
TEXTURE, LIGHT AND COLOR TO YOUR HOME.

BY CANDICE MUTSCHLER

PHOTOS BY MATT MCCOURTNEY

Art. It can be an intimidating subject, a stimulating hobby, a downright obsession. Where you fall in this broad continuum is reflected in your home—in the furniture and accessories you have chosen, and by the ambience and energy within. The truly artful interior is compelling, provocative and sublime, transformed from visual silence into a symphony of texture, color and light. It may make a bold statement or be understated in design, but every artful interior has one thing in common: art that has been chosen with feeling and displayed with style.

